



NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

For Immediate Release: Nov. 5, 2004
Media Contact: Jeff Harris, 317/ 232-3396
Robert Shula, 317/ 234-0263

Workforce development grants awarded to South Bend's Madison Center

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan today announced that South Bend's Madison Center has been awarded two state workforce grants to broaden and enhance the skills of its employees.

Madison Center has received a total of \$73,473 through the **Indiana@Work** and **Incumbent Worker Training** grant programs, administered by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, to upgrade the skills of new and existing workers. Located in South Bend and employing approximately 200 Hoosiers, the facility provides behavioral health care to residents of Northern Indiana.

"Continually training and upgrading the skills of your workers is one key to the success, and we are pleased to see Madison Center taking advantage of these programs," said Kernan. "By making this investment in their employees, Madison Center not only is raising the level of expertise of their staff, they are also improving the quality of care they can provide to their clients."

Through the Indiana@ Work program, Madison Center has received \$1,296 to assess the skills of 60 incumbent employees. It also was awarded a \$33,000 Incumbent Worker Training grant for 200 employees to obtain certificates of technical achievement (CTA) in the mental health care. Working with Ivy Tech State College, participants will receive training that includes 60 hours of classroom time, on-the-job training and a system of peer mentoring and feedback.

Founded in 1949 as the St. Joseph County Mental Hygiene Clinic, Madison Center operates 11 different facilities throughout northern Indiana, employs 1,120 individuals and serves more than 10,000 area residents each year.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to more than 26,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested nearly 600 job profiles since its inception in January.

The centerpiece of Indiana@Work is WorkKeys®, a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys® helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with

experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

-more-

Madison Center/ add 1

The Incumbent Worker Training grant was designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers. All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for this grant opportunity.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 1-800-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

###